

Health Update:

Update 2: Prevention and Management of Infectious Diseases and Other Conditions Affecting Hurricane Katrina Evacuees

September 16, 2005

This document will be updated as new information becomes available. The current version can always be viewed at <http://www.dhss.mo.gov>

The Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services (DHSS) is now using 4 types of documents to provide important information to medical and public health professionals, and to other interested persons:

Health Alerts convey information of the highest level of importance which warrants immediate action or attention from Missouri health providers, emergency responders, public health agencies, and/or the public.

Health Advisories provide important information for a specific incident or situation, including that impacting neighboring states; may not require immediate action.

Health Guidances contain comprehensive information pertaining to a particular disease or condition, and include recommendations, guidelines, etc. endorsed by DHSS.

Health Updates provide new or updated information on an incident or situation; can also provide information to update a previously sent Health Alert, Health Advisory, or Health Guidance; unlikely to require immediate action.

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September 16, 2005

**FROM: JULIA M. ECKSTEIN
DIRECTOR**

SUBJECT: Update 2: Prevention and Management of Infectious Diseases and Other Conditions Affecting Hurricane Katrina Evacuees

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has recently provided new or updated information on several issues related to persons impacted by Hurricane Katrina:

- **Medical Care of Ill Hurricane Evacuees: Additional Diagnoses to Consider**
<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/hurricanes/katrina/medcare.asp>

This document states that assistance with most diagnostic testing can be obtained through the state health department (i.e., the state public health laboratory). The Missouri State Public Health Laboratory (MSPHL) can be contacted at 573/751-0633, or 800/392-0272 (24/7).

- **Guidelines for the Management of Acute Diarrhea**
<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/hurricanes/dguidelines.asp>

This updated information replaces that found in Appendix C of the September 6, 2005, Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) Health Advisory: *Prevention of Infectious Diseases in Community Shelters Housing Hurricane-Displaced Persons*. It also replaces the information found in Appendix B of the September 5, 2005, DHSS Health Advisory: *Hurricane-Displaced Persons Presenting to Local Public Health Agencies With Health-Related Concerns*.

- **Infection Control Recommendations for Prevention of Transmission of Respiratory Illnesses in Evacuation Centers**
<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/hurricanes/katrina/respiratory.asp>

More hurricane-related information for medical and public health professionals is available from CDC at <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/hurricanes/hcp.asp>. Previous DHSS Health Advisories and Health Updates are available on DHSS' Hurricane Recovery Efforts website at http://www.dhss.mo.gov/BT_Response/Recovery.html. This website also contains information for licensed Missouri medical professionals (and others) who wish to volunteer to assist in the hurricane recovery effort.

CDC's Hurricane Katrina Health & Safety website provides additional information for several specific groups, including evacuees and other affected persons, response and cleanup workers, evacuation centers, and schools. The address is:
<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/hurricanes/index.asp>.

The occurrence of known or suspected infectious diseases among hurricane evacuees should be reported to the local public health agency, or to DHSS at 800/392-0272 (24/7).

If anyone receiving this Health Update needs to access any of the linked materials and is unable to do so (e.g., because of lack of Internet access), contact DHSS' Center for Emergency Response and Terrorism at 573/526-4768, or 800/392-0272 (24/7).

Disease-related questions should be directed to DHSS' Disease Investigation Unit at 573/751-6122, or 866/628-9891 (24/7). Laboratory testing questions should be directed to MSPHL at 573/751-0633, or 800/392-0272 (24/7).

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